

**BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN**  
**THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 6, GOATBECK TERRACE,**  
**LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM, DH7 8JJ**  
**ON FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026, AT 6.30 PM**

**Present:**

Councillor J Jamieson (Chair)

Councillors Cllr P Askill, D Bell, A Bonner, J C Chapman, P A B Elmer, J Grantham, D Hindmarch, D Rowland, S Leckenby, E H Simpson, F D Simpson, C J Smith, P Stoddart, J A Turnbull, and M Wall.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs C Dixon (Clerk), Mrs S Cash (Assistant Clerk), and 2 members of the public.

*A minute's silence was observed in memory of Jennifer Hayes.*

**194. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Cllr J E Hirst, Cllr J S Burt and Cllr M Wilson. There were no apologies received from Cllr D Bregazzi.

**RESOLVED:** To **RECEIVE** the apologies.

**195. By-Election Results**

- a) To welcome Cllr F Bonner.
- b) To **NOTE** the information.

**196. Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations**

Declarations of interest were received from the following:

- Item 204 - Cllr J Grantham Brandon Carrside - Committee Member;
- Item 204 - Cllr S Leckenby - Brandon Carrside - Committee Member;
- Item 204 - Cllr J Turnbull - Brandon Carrside - Committee Member;

**RESOLVED:** To **RECEIVE** the declarations of interest.

**197. Public Participation**

**RESOLVED:** There was **NO** public participation.

**198. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were **CONFIRMED** as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**199. Donation**

- a) **Durham Hospitals Radio** - Requesting funding of £500 towards operating costs.

**RESOLVED:** The clerk advised that certain wards were overspent on their budget for community support. To **APPROVE** £250 from Central Fund.

**200. Invoices for Payment**

Authorisation was requested to pay accounts for £14,683.92.

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** payment of the accounts amounting to £14,683.92. The accounts to be checked and verified by two councillors before payment.

## **201. Bank Transfer**

To approve a bank transfer of funds from CCLA to the current account.

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the transfer of £17,500.

## **202. Chairs Civic Functions**

The report detailing the Chair's attendance at civic functions was noted.

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the chairs attendance at the civic functions.

## **203. Planning Applications**

### **Week ending 16 January 2026**

DM/25/03280/FPA - R5 Care Ltd - Change of use from single dwelling (C3) to children home (C2) for maximum of 2 children aged 7 to 1735 Dorlonco Villas, Meadowfield, Durham, DH7 8RZ

**RESOLVED:** It was **APPROVED** for the clerk to contact planning and obtain information on safeguarding measures for residents, and who residents would contact if any issues arose.

### **Week ending 23 January 2026**

DM/26/00142/FPA - Mr Jak Beresford - Two storey rear pitched roof extension. 27 Coupland Way, Stonebridge, DH1 3SA

**RESOLVED:** It was **NOTED** that no objections were raised to the application.

## **204. Carrside**

The written report was received. Eva Leckenby provided an up-to-date verbal report.

**RESOLVED:** To **NOTE** the reports.

## **205. Fire Risk Assessment**

The Fire Risk Assessment was discussed.

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the replacement of the smoke detectors and the fire door to the council chambers.

## **206. Ushaw College Woodland Management Plan**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the clerk to find out additional information.

## **207. National Association of Councillors**

a. **RESOLVED:** To **NOTE** delegates attendance.

b. **RESOLVED:** To **NOTE** delegates attendance.

c. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk advised that the budget allocated for Members' training conferences was overspent and requested clarification from Members regarding where within the budget the additional funds would be taken. No confirmation was provided as to the source of funding. To **APPROVE in Principle** for Cllrs D Bell, P Stoddart and S Leckenby attend.

## **208. Broompark Rowing Machine**

The report was considered. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of other contractors carrying out the works. It was suggested that any contractors may need to be RoSPA-approved, but officers would obtain further information. Cllr Stoddart requested an onsite visit with Streetscape to review the play area, as Cllr Stoddart may seek to obtain funding from Section 106 monies.

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the Clerk’s recommendation that the Council consider removal or replacement of the play equipment.

**209. Remembrance Poppies**

Cllr E. Simpson request was discussed. It was confirmed that, in the past, the Council has placed wreaths on the name plates but has not installed poppies on lamp posts; such displays are usually carried out by community groups.

**RESOLVED:** To **RECEIVE** the request and leave the matter for community groups to arrange in the wards.

**210. Business Plan Update**

The report was discussed.

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the skills analysis questionnaire being sent to all members and the vision statement – “To support and engage with residents through inclusive, caring and transparent delivery of quality services. These will enhance an environment where our communities can flourish now and, in the future”.

**211. Grant Awarding Policy**

Policy discussed.

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** a further meeting as further amendments are required.

**212. External Auditor Action Plan**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the action plan.

**213. CDALC Special General Meeting (SGM)**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** Cllrs D Bell and Cllr P Stoddart to attend and that Cllr Stoddart be the voting representative.

**214. Exclusion of the press and public**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** Exclusion of the press and public.

**215. Grounds Maintenance**

The clerk provided the Council with an update regarding the floral displays and tubs within the Parish.

**RESOLVED:** To **NOTE** the information.

The meeting closed at 19.23 PM

Signed .....

Date .....